Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1311 – September 27, 2002

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1311 with a release date of Friday, September 27th 2002 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Unlicensed stations invade the low end of 20 meters and a tower finding in California highlight this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1311 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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INTRUDER WATCH: WORLDWIDE QRM FROM INDONESIA

Unlicensed stations allegedly operating from Indonesia are causing havoc to the D-X beacon monitoring system on 20 meters. Its interference being heard around the world as we hear from Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB:

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The presence of Indonesian non amateur groups on the various amateur band frequencies in the 40 and 20 meter bands is causing severe concern for all the amateurs of Region 3 and the world over. While they use amateur radio frequencies for their regular communications, you will never miss the many calls for Prayers and the many jokes and Kookaburra pattern of laughing with old men and young ladies together.

The 40 meter band has several channels of 5 kHz intervals from the lower edge and these stations have their breeding grounds here. They graduate to other frequencies and move to 20 meter band, where they are on either side of the International Beacon frequency of 14100 kHz.   Many of us in Region 3, cannot monitor any NCDXF/IARU beacons on this frequency.

Even though this QRM from Indonesians has been reported month after month to telecommunications authorities, so far nothing seems to be happening get them off the air.
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If you hear this QRM, please report it to your nations Intruder Watch coordinator.
(Q-News)

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RADIO LAW: COURT RULES CITY CANNOT RESTRICT BUSINESS ANTENNA USE

A California Court of Appeals has ruled that a city cannot regulate the type of transmissions that an FCC license holder can broadcast. It also says that a city ordinance that prohibited a license holder from broadcasting commercially is preempted by federal law. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, says what the city of Rancho Palos Verdes was trying to write its own rules on this one:

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Mark Abrams, WA6DPB, lives in Rancho Palos Verdes California. He is an amateur

radio operator and with city approval, Abrams built a 40-foot antenna and 52-foot antenna in the backyard of his home. The city’s approval of the towers was contingent on their use being limited to non-commercial applications only. Abrams is also the owner of a business that sells and services two-way radio equipment and holds 76 licenses issued by the FCC which permitted the use of his antennas for commercial purposes.
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Abrams: Audio Onlt at www.arnewsline.org.
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Abrams says that he never used the two city-approved towers to receive or transmit on frequencies for commercial use. Instead, he used portable antennas mounted on tripods in his backyard and on a mobile tower trailer which he parked in his side yard.

But in 1998 and 1999, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes monitored radio transmissions from Abrams's property and detected the commercial use of frequencies. The City stated that these transmissions were in violation of an ordinance that required FCC licensees to obtain a conditional use permit from the city's planning commission to operate commercially.

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Abrams: Audio only at www.arnewsline.org
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The City of Rancho Palos Verdes and State of California filed an action seeking an injunction to bar Abrams from, among other things, operating his antennas for commercial purposes. Abrams answered the complaint and filed a cross-complaint of his own. It he claimed that federal law preempted the City's ordinance because it prohibited the use of frequencies allocated to him and his customers by the FCC.

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Abrams: Audio only at www.arnewsline.org
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The court says that he can use his antennas for commercial purposes without a city permit. It says that federal law preempts the City's ordinance banning such use because the Rancho Palos Verdes requirement that Abrams obtain a permit to transmit a commercial broadcast was preempted by federal regulation. It says that Abrams's FCC licenses enable him to operate commercially on certain frequencies and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes limitation on his rights are in conflict with federal law. And that’s good news for WA6DPB.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.
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The Court concluded the City does hold zoning authority, but such authority is limited to the placement, construction, and modification of facilities used for commercial mobile radio services only. (ARNewsline™)

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RADIO RULES: UPDATE ON NTIA VS. PROPOSED 5 MHZ HAM BAND

Some good news concerning the National Telecommunications and Information Administration opposition to a new Amateur service allocation at 5 Mhz. This

from ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD who say that they are now optimistic about reaching a resolution to issues that could otherwise block plans for the band.

The two met with representatives of the government agency to discuss the NTIA concerns. Haynie says that they came away with a feeling that the NTIA was willing to work with the ARRL to resolve concerns. Until surprise opposition surfaced the FCC appeared to have put ARRL's request for a new, domestic-only, secondary amateur allocation at 60 meters on the political fast track. (ARRL Bulletin)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Three Rivers Amateur Radio Club repeater serving Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: HURRICANE ISADORE STRIKS

On Tuesday, September 24th, the FCC declared that a general communications emergency existed for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. This as hurricane Isadore approached the region.

The declaration requires amateurs not use 3.873 MHz during hours of darkness and 7.285 MHz during daylight. Both frequencies are to be protected plus or minus 3 kHz. Only amateurs taking part in the handling of emergency traffic are to use these 6 kilohertz slots.

 The FCC said the communications emergency could last as long as 14 days but it actually remains in force until its rescinded. Keep an eye on the ARRL website newspages for ongoing updates on ham radio involvement in this emergency. Its in cyberspace at www.arl.org (From ARRL bulletin.)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: V-U-SAT’S MESSAGES FROM ORBIT

A new ham radio satellite to be launched by India wants to carry your message. This, according to VU2NUD who is the coordinator for Amsat-India.

VU2NUD says that V-U-SAT will carry a beacon system with the ability to play back pre recorded messages on command. They will be transmitted in F-M voice for all the world to hear and your words could be among those it broadcasts from space. Here’s how:

Think of short, meaningful and apropos messages no longer than 15 seconds in duration. It could be related to ham radio space operations, amateur satellites, famous quotes, sayings or whatever. Then send it along to VU2SBJ by e- mail to sri@ebhats.com and a copy to ham@vsnl.com. Mark clearly in the subject: Message for Beacon. Then wait to see what V-U-SAT eventually has to say. (ANS)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC SETS ASIDE LICENSE RENEWAL

The FCC has notified Scott E. Kamm, of Sioux City Iowa that it has set aside the renewal of his Technician class license grant for N0UGN. The Commission said it took the action based on recent complaints about the operation of Kamm's station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee.

The FCC notes a Warning Notice by the Enforcement Bureau sent to Kamm last February 5th. The agency says that the warning was related to Kamm's alleged use of transmitting equipment on 156.300 and 174.000 MHz without a license, and deliberate interference to an Amateur repeater operating on 146.910 MHz. The letter also pointed out that Kamm's address in the database was incorrect. And subsequent to that warning notice the FCC says that information came to its attention that Kamm had apparently provided radio equipment to an unlicensed minor residing in Waterbury, Nebraska, and had instructed him on how to operate on the Marine Band and other frequencies.

In his February 11th response to the FCC Warning Notice, Kamm denied setting up radio equipment for the minor, and also stated that he had sold all of his radio equipment. But the FCC says that it has all of these complaints under review and that Kamm will be hearing from the agency again in the not to distant future. (FCC)

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SAFETY ALERT: FLUKE METER RECALL

Test equipment manufacturer Fluke Corporation has announced a voluntary recall of certain models of its digital multimeters. This because of a delay in readings on the A-C scale above 500 volts.

According to a company release, the meters can take more than 18 seconds to reach a final reading. This could lead users to think that the voltage is lower than it actually is.

The meters involved in the recall are models 175, 177 and 179 of which 17000 were sold in the United States. All of the recalled units have a serial number below 79000000 and were sold between January and October 2001. If you have one, please call Fluke toll-free at 800-260-4819 between 8 AM and 7 PM weekdays Eastern time. More information on the recall can be found in cyberspace at www.fluke.com/rma/default.asp. (Fluke press release forwarded by WA6ILQ)

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SAFETY ALERT: KODAK DC5000 DIGI CAMERA RECALL

A recall on a popular digital camera. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the shocking details:

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If you own a Kodak brand digital camera model D C 5000, listen up. Eastman Kodak Co. is recalling about 75,000 of these cameras because of a possible

manufacturing defect that can cause electrical shock.

According to news reports, the recalled cameras bear the model number DC5000 on the lower front right-hand corner. The cameras also carry a plate on the bottom containing the Kodak product identifier code KJCAA, followed by an eight-digit serial number ranging from 01800001 to 11700825.

The cameras were sold at department, electronic, computer and camera stores as well as mail-order and Web sites from June 2000 through August 2002. Consumers can return the cameras for free inspection and repair by contacting the company at 1-888-793-2977 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday Eastern Daylight Time.
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Again, if you own one of these cameras, please contact Kodak at 1-888-793-2977 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday Eastern Daylight Time. (Kodak press release)

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HAM RADIO ON TV: ICOM JOINS “THE HUMAN RACE”

ICOM America has been named the high frequency communications provider for the television shoe The Human Race. ICOM America has already shipped an IC-706 Mark II G to Boston for use by the show. The IC-706 and additional equipment will be used during an upcoming trek along the actual travel route to be used. The donation is the result of an agreement recently reached between ICOM America's National Sales Manager Ray Novak, KC7JPA, and the shows producer Bill Desjardins, W1ZY. (THR)

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CONFRENCES: WSWSS IN CERRITOS CA

The Western States VHF-UHF and Microwave Conference is slated for October 11, 12 and 13 at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel Towne Center in Cerritos California. Hosted by the Western States Weak Signal Society, the conference provides VHF and UHF enthusiasts the knowledge and tools to work DX and contests on 6 meters and up. This years banquet speaker is ARRL 1st Vice-President and VHF/UHF contester Joel Harrison, W5ZN. More information is on the web at www.wswss.org. (WSWSS)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today’s radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org.

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RADIO HISTORY: PEARL HARBOR REPORTER S.K.

He wasn’t a ham, but Hugh Lytle was a communicator in his own right. History

remembers Lytle as the man whose teletype message provided The Associated Press and the world with the first account of Japan’s sneak attack on Pearl Harbor back in 1941.

Lytle was the news services Honolulu correspondent and a reserve Army officer. He was awakened by the Army on December 7th as Japanese planes bombed the U.S. fleet. According to his son David, Lytle quickly left for his A-P office at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, where he filed a brief account of the attack in progress. He then reported for military duty with the Army.

A few weeks ago on August 16th Hugh Lytle passed away. He was 100 years old. (Published reports)

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HAM TRAVEL: FREE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR HAMS ON THE GO

>From across the Atlantic comes word of an interesting program for hams who like to move around. The International Travel Host Exchange, or I-T-H-E is a program administered by the German national society, D.A.R.C. It provides radio amateurs with the possibility of free accommodation with other amateurs around the world in exchange for other hams offering accommodation to overseas amateurs.

Most International Travel Host Exchange members are in Europe, but there are also amateurs registered in Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Syria, Thailand and the USA. Once registered, postal or e-mail addresses are made available so that contact can be established well before any visit takes place. For more information please contact Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE by e-mail to dl9kce@darc.de.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: NEW GRAYLINE STUDY REMAILER

A new Internet newsgroup has been set up to discuss and coordinate the current research into greyline propagation by the RSGB Propagation Studies Committee. It is with Yahoo and people can subscribe by sending an empty e-mail to greyline-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

Yahoogroups is also the home of the Amateur Radio Newsline e-mail list you subscribe to it by sending a similar empty e-mail to arnewsline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. ARNewsline is one word spelled a-r-n-e-w-s-l-i-n-e.

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RS-12/13 - S.K.

The AMSAT News Service and the ARRL Letter both report that the Russian Radiosport RS-12/13 ham satellite appears to have died. Jerry Brown, K5OE, reports he's received word from Russian sources that RS-12/13 went dark as a result of severe solar flare activity in
July and August.

At airtime, efforts are under way to restore the satellite, but hopes for success are dim, according to Brown's Russian acquaintances. RS-12/13 were integrated into the COSMOS 2123 Russian navigation satellite, launched February 5, 1991. It’s beacons have not been heard since August 20. (ANS, ARRL Letter)

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INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA: CB RULES ARE CHANGING

The Australian UHF CB equipment standard is to change. The new standard will require that CTCSS equipment include facilities to reduce interference to non CTCSS users. Required features include a 'channel busy' warning light and a 'listen before transmit' function. The changes were required by the Australian Communications Authority following changes that legalized CTCSS signaling on UHF CB channels. The A-C-A has also informed the Australian Association of Citizens Band Radio Operators that once the standards are approved by Standards Australia, they will become compulsory for equipment manufacturers. (Q-News)

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DX

In D-X, word that KF2XN is active as KH2 slash KF2XN from Guam for at least the next month. He operates mostly SSB in his spare time. QSL as directed on the air. (RSGB)

And BI7DX is an Isands on the Air expedition that will operate from Weizhou Island throuhgh the 4th of October. Weizhou Island is located in the Gulf of Tongking in South China with team members comming from four different Chinese provences. The operation will be on SSB and CW from 40 to 10 meters, including the WARC bands. (RSGB)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE BIRDS ARE BACK

And finally this week, our favorite flying T-Hunt is about to start. This, as the famed radio tagged burrowing owls take flight once again. With the details, here’s Joe Moell, K0OV.

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It's that time again -- migratory birds in the Northern Hemisphere are heading south for the winter. For the fifth year, ham radio operators and scanner fans are being asked to use their equipment to help wildlife biologists figure out the routes and final destinations of endangered Burrowing Owls. In previous years, hams helped determine that owls hatching during summer months in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta travel over central states from North Dakota to Oklahoma, ending up in southeast Texas and northern states of Mexico. They sometimes fly over 2000 miles to their winter homes.

There aren't any radio-tagged Canadian owls to listen for this fall, but the University of Arizona is asking for ham help with 53 transmittered owls from eastern Washington state. If you live in the western USA and can receive 150 MHz signals, you could help. Your scanner or extended-range hand-held ham

radio transceiver, plus an outside antenna, are all you need to join in. If you have radio direction finding equipment for VHF, so much the better.

For all the frequencies and monitoring information, go to the usual place on the Web, www.homingin.com (HomingIn is one word.) If you aren't on the Web, send postal mail to my callbook address. Again, the Web site is homingin.com

Thanks in advance for your help. From southern California, this is Joe Moell K-zero-Oscar-Victor for Amateur Radio Newsline

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Once again, more information is in cyberspace at www.homingin.com. (ARNewsline™)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline @arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that our survey how ham radio is being used by home schoolers is still taking place. If you are a home schooling parent or a student being home schooled, please send your thoughts on the subject by e-mail to newsline@arnewsline.org. We will keep the survey going for one more week.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I’m Jim Damron N8TMW and I’m Jeff Clark K8JAC saying 73 and we thank you for listening.
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